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BULLETIN

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 25

OCTOBER 1953

No. 2



MISS SALLIE E. COY

The American Library Association has awarded to Miss Sallie E. Coy the Letter Librarian Award, for her service to her community and the wide range of her library interests. The Rhode Island Library Association greets Miss Coy, and congratulates the Committee on Awards for its fine judgment.

PROGRAM OF THE R. I. L. A. MEETING

October 29, 1953

Newport Historical Society, Touro Street, Newport

10:15 GREETINGS

10:30 BUSINESS MEETING

10:45 "EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION"

Mr. Howard S. Curtis, Director of Public Relations, Brown University

11:30 "TV AND THE TEEN AGE"

Miss M. Isabelle Hall, Supervising Teacher of English,
Hope High School, Providence

"TELEVISION AND CHILDREN'S READING"

Miss Ida Anderson, Children's Librarian of the Boys' and Girls' Library,
Providence Public Library

DISCUSSION

1:00 LUNCH, the Hotel Viking

2:15 GUIDED TOURS OF NEWPORT

The walking tour will include such places of interest as Touro Synagogue, the Old Colony House, the Chamber of Commerce, the Vernon House and Trinity Church.

The automobile tour will drive through the older part of Newport to Ten Mile Drive, past the Breakers to Salve Regina College and back to the city.

4:00 TEA, given by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert O. Brigham for the Rhode Island Library Association in honor of Miss Coy.

Directions for reaching the Brigham home will be posted at the Historical Society.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING

To reach Newport by car, take Route 114 over the Mt. Hope Bridge; Route 6 to Route 136 and over the Bridge; or Route 138 from Fall River through Tiverton. To reach the Historical Society, come into Newport along Broadway, turn left at St. Joseph's Church, right at Mount Vernon Strtet and left again at Barney Street. The Historical Society is located between Barney and Touro Streets, with parking available on Barney Street.

If transportation is needed, call Mr. Curley at the Providence Public Library, Jackson 1-7722.

Busses leave Providence from the Fountain Street Terminal every hour on the hour for Newport. Round trip fare costs \$2.63.

DEDICATION

The Executive Board and the Editor dedicate this issue of the Bulletin to the Newport libraries, calling attention to their history and development.

The Association happily returns to Newport County after an overlong absence.

Naval War College Library

The Naval War College Library is a reference and research library which specializes in naval and military science. Other major acquisition emphasis includes all fields that effect the naval profession — political, economic, scientific and military. The main collection contains approximately 100,000 books, bound journals and pamphlets.

The library serves primarily the staff and students of the College, but access, use and interlibrary loan are available to agencies of the Government and active and retired officers in the United States.

Newport Historical Society

The Newport Historical Society, which celebrated its 100th anniversary last May 26, is located on Touro Street in three connecting buildings, the oldest of which, erected in 1729, is the original Sabbatarian Church. The Society has an excellent library and a number of museums displaying various historical relics: marine mementoes, china and rare tiles, period costumes, fine furniture, the first typewriter, miniatures, fire protection equipment, coins and medals, a hand loom, household furnishings, and many, many items of interest unfortunately too numerous to list here.

People's Library

People's Library was founded in 1870 by a native of Newport, Mr. Christopher Townsend, with some 7000 books he had purchased in Europe for the purpose. The original site was the second floor of a building on Thames Street; the entire sum appropriated for

the building, repairs and books was estimated at \$100,000. In 1912, the George Gordon King House in Aquidneck Park was given to the Library; it was remodeled for use as a library and opened formally on July 15, 1914.

The Library has been operated for the past eighty-three years on the interest from the Townsend endowment and a State appropriation received for about the past thirty years. When about ten years ago, income became insufficient to meet the budget, the Library was made an agency of the Newport Community Chest upon petition by the Trustees. The lack of funds has made it necessary to close a branch open for many years.

The Library is free to all residents of Newport, Middletown, Tiverton, Portsmouth and Jamestown.

Redwood Library

The Redwood Library, incorporated in 1747, occupies the oldest library building in continuous use in the United States. The first proprietors, inspired by Abraham Redwood's gift of five hundred pounds sterling, formed a "Society or Company for the propagating [of] virtue, knowledge and useful learning." The founders were cultivated men whose theological and historical interests are reflected in the books of the original collection. For the past year and a half a good part of the Library's activity has been given to the restoration of this 18th century library. A handwritten catalogue of the library's holdings, dated 1750, is a cherished possession and has been instrumental in replacing about 200 missing volumes with copies of the same editions. It is hoped this year that much work can be done to improve the condition of many of the bindings.

In addition to the Library's present 108,000 volumes, Redwood also contains various objects of art: portraits by Stuart, and Lawrence among others; an early Rhode Island Colony flag, and a Townsend card table, once owned by the Redwood family.

Rogers High School Library

The Rogers Library, one of the first school libraries in New England, was founded in 1900 by former Headmaster Frank E. Thompson with funds from a bequest of George H. Norman. The first full-time librarian was Miss Eleanor Barker; the present teacher-librarian is Mrs. Catherine Beagan.

The collection now numbers more than 10,000 books and is housed in the former assembly hall. The faculty and school department have always encouraged the widening of library services to the school. In addition to our own collection and our excellent reference section, we own a share in Redwood Library, which permits the use of their collections, and obtain reading for courses through inter-library loans from People's Library.

When our new high school is built, we hope for an attractive and functional library with storage space for audio-visual aids.

Salve Regina Library

During the first six years of its existence, Salve Regina College's library has grown from 2,400 volumes to its present size of 12,000 volumes and 150 periodicals.

The original collection was housed in the mansion of Robert Goelet, whose generosity had made the establishment of the college possible. Students of the college now study and carry on research in the Goelet family library; expansion plans include the use of adjoining rooms for reading and periodicals.

Historically speaking, perhaps the most valuable books are on the Archbishop Dowling collection of local history, rare books and first editions. The foreign book section, begun with the Ogden Goelet collection of French classics, is presently being developed. The educational library contains professional books and a laboratory library of sample school texts on all grade levels. A small dormitory library, made possible by Mr. Herman Huffer, is kept in Moore Hall, a residence hall donated by Mr. Cornelius C. Moore.

With the continued interest of friends and benefactors, Salve Regina library seems destined to widen its scope, and increase its prestige and usefulness to the community.

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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